

July 12, 2011

A called meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, was held in the Council Hall of the Municipal Building at 5:30 p.m., July 12, 2011.

Members present: Mayor W. D. Tharp; Councilwoman Mary L. Flood; Councilman Guy E. Murray, Jr.; Councilman Steve C. Rush; Councilman C. G. Stanley, Jr.; Councilman James A. Vest; and Vice Mayor Robert T. Wandrei

Members absent: None

Staff present: City Manager Charles P. Kolakowski; City Attorney W. W. Berry, IV, and Clerk of the Council Teresa W. Hatcher.

Mayor Tharp opened the meeting and led all present in saying the Pledge of Allegiance to the Flag.

The Notice of Called Meeting follows:

You are hereby notified that there will be a Called Meeting of the Council of the City of Bedford, Virginia, on July 12, 2011, 5:30 p.m. in the Council Hall of the City Municipal Building, 215 East Main Street, Bedford, VA 24523, for the following purposes: Work Session

City Manager Kolakowski explained changes to the disconnect policy for customers who are past due on their utility bills. The City Manager said the new disconnect policy will become effective on November 1, 2011.

City Treasurer Debbie Roberts also explained the new policy: customers have 20 days to pay their utility bill on time; 5 days after the bill's due date, a cut-off notice will be mailed which will be due in 10 days; if the bill is not paid, the utilities will be cut off.

Ms. Roberts explained how the disconnect policy is handled.

The City Manager said the City is currently charging 1.5% on all utility accounts that become delinquent. It is proposed to change this rate to 3.0% with a minimum late fee to be charged of \$5.00. Mr. Kolakowski explained this increase would help with the costs involved in handling delinquent accounts.

Ms. Roberts explained how the reconnect charge and deposits are handled.

The City Manager reported that F. Dale Hull, Hull's Mobile Homes Estates, in the revenue sharing area, Route 460 E behind Auto Zone, has made an inquiry as to the availability of City water for the park as it is having difficulties with the wells. Mr. Kolakowski said the Revenue Sharing Agreement calls for the City to provide water to residential properties only if there is a problem with water availability from wells or a health issue with the water. The City Manager said the staff has put together some estimates on the costs of facilities fees (per unit) and extension of some of the lines; the mobile home park's water system would have to be up to the standards and specifications

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required. Mr. Kolakowski said the developer would have to put in all water lines then dedicate the lines to a certain point to the City.

The City Manager stated changes are being made at the landfill: the drop-off area for recycling and the dumpsters is going to be moved to where the old shed was, which has been torn down; a ramp has been built that people will be able to drive up and basically dump their garbage at ground level; it is hoped that will help people get all the trash in the dumpsters rather than littering the ground. The recycling drop-off containers will be moved to the other side of the dumpsters, which will incorporate expanded areas for cardboard; there will be an area where people can drop off their brush, free of charge. Mr. Kolakowski said the City is no longer incurring any expense in grinding up the brush, as the City has an agreement with a company that grinds the brush for free and then takes it away. Notices will be sent out to all City residents once the area is set up.

City Manager Kolakowski stated the staff is looking to reduce the number of hours the landfill is open to accept trash. There is a very low volume of people who come to the landfill with trash going over the scales. The City Manager reviewed the plans for the reduced hours of operation and said this will probably take effect in August or September.

The City Manager stated it has been recommended that the City have a formal written Investment Policy. Mr. Kolakowski said the written policy is the same policy the City has been using for years.

Councilman Vest asked Director of Finance Jordan for a list of the rates of returns on the City's investments. Ms. Jordan said she will prepare the list.

The Director of Finance reviewed highlights of the May financial reports.

On motion by Councilman Murray, seconded by Councilman Stanley, voted upon and carried unanimously, the meeting was adjourned at 6:35 p.m.